RESOLUTIONS.

1. Agricultural improvement of the State.

Mr. K. S. Manickam.—*"This Council recommends to the Government that with the institution of the Land Mortgage Bank, steps be taken to improve the present system of Agriculture, and to increase the present facilities of marketing of the agricultural produce."*

Mr. President, Sir, the objects with which the Land Mortgage Bank is floated in this State are as contemplated in the statement of objects and reasons included in the Bill: (1) for the debt redemption, (2) to relieve the ryot from the present economic depression, and (3) to improve the land. However laudable the objects are, still certain misgivings are expressed in some well-meaning quarters as to whether the institution of the Land Mortgage Bank in itself would meet with the desired results. Any way, they do not base their misapprehensions on any defect in the fundamental working or system of the Bank but on certain circumstances enveloping us at the present time. The far-reaching consequences of the economic depression which has baffled many an economist of repute, put more than one Government out of gear and proved a regular night-mare to the various captains of industry, are at the base of these sceptic feelings expressed. The sudden decrease in the price of agricultural produce has reduced the income of the agriculturists to a very considerable extent, so that, if with the institution of the Land Mortgage Bank, steps be not taken to improve the methods of present agriculture and to increase the facilities of the marketing of agricultural produce, the agriculturist may not entirely be relieved from his present indebtedness. As things do stand now, most of the agriculturist may not be in a position to get so much money from the bank as to pay off his prior debt and leave a decent balance to improve the land. Security may not be enough for the Bank also to advance so much amount to the agriculturists as to wipe off his present debt and to leave him a decent balance to concentrate and spend upon the improvement of his holding. Thus, the mere institution of a Land Mortgage Bank in itself unaided and un-supplemented by certain actions on the part of the Government will only result in the change of the personnel of the creditor. A harsh and exacting money-lender may be replaced by a benign Board of Directors. The sudden fall in the price of commodities has reduced the income of the agriculturist so much so that during

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the past 6 or 7 years his income has been such that it was only enough to make his both ends meet. He had not the wherewithal to spend for the improvement of his holding. His holding was left quite uncared for and unmanured. It is such a piece of land that is going to be mortgaged to the Bank. Circumstances being such, if the Government do not now interfere and lend the agriculturist a helping hand by suggesting to him improved methods of agriculture and also financially helping him to apply those things, I feel doubtful whether the mere institution of the Land Mortgage Bank in itself would be of much relief to him.

In order to help the agriculturist, I would suggest that the present Agricultural Department should be so re-constituted that more agricultural demonstration farms are opened at various convenient centres, so that scientific methods for the improvement of land and scientific applications for agriculture be inculcated into the mind of the peasant. Besides the Land Mortgage Bank only contemplates upon the payment of long term loans. The Government, either by itself or with the help of the Land Mortgage Bank should advance short term loans to these agriculturists, so that they will be in a position to buy better seeds and better implements of agriculture. If the Government find that it is not possible to advance to these agriculturists short-term loans, I would suggest in the alternative that good seeds and better implements of agriculture be supplied to them by the Agricultural Department or by the Co-operative Department, the cost of which should be realised from the agriculturists after the harvesting is over.

The next suggestion that I have to make in regard to this is that the irrigation system as it is obtained to-day in our State should be much improved. Except in the Taluq of Chittur there is no irrigation system of which the state can really be proud. Time and again, Sir, the necessity for the promulgation of a well-laid out irrigation system has been discussed here. I do not wish to traverse that ground once again. Tanks and other receptacles for the storage of water for the agriculturist in good old days have been reclaimed and utilised for agriculture now, with the result that the agriculturist of to-day has to depend upon the inclemencies of the weather for the proper harvesting of crops. His is a huge gamble in the rain. In order to minimise the risks that he has to undergo depending upon the inclemencies of the weather, I would suggest to the Government to lay out a well-planned out scheme of irrigation without much delay so that with these things the paying capacity

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

of the modern agriculturist could be increased with the result that he may be able to return to the Bank the amount he is now taking from the Bank as loan.

Sir, as regards better facilities for the marketing of the produce, marketing officers have been appointed by our Government. In answer to the questions that were put today, on the very floor of this House, I am surprised to find that they are now engaged in surveying about the marketing of products that are not really cultivated here. No doubt they are acting under directions from the marketing officers appointed by the Government of India. I would suggest that as soon as their present work is over they may take up the surveying of the products of our own country, like cocoanuts, arecanuts and paddy and concentrate themselves to gather information about the facilities for the marketing of our produce. Marketing on a co-operative basis should be instituted here. I don't wish to enter minutely into the details of these for want of time. I only want to suggest to the Government that if the Government do not adopt certain measures to increase the paying capacity of the agriculturist and to increase his income, the institution of the Land Mortgage Bank would not in itself meet with the desired results. With these observations I commend this resolution to the acceptance of this House.

Mr. A. Narayana Menon.—Sir I second the Resolution. This subject has been receiving the attention of almost all the States in the whole of India. The latest pronouncement is the report published under the auspices of the Madras Government by Mr. Sathianathan. I do not propose to read the report at length. But I will give the House the prominent points raised in it with regard to relieving the agriculturists from the present sad predicament. He wants the Co-operative Department and the Agricultural Department and other departments of Government whenever necessary to co-operate with and the non-official public to help the Government in the accomplishment of the objects that all of us have in view. I shall just give the main points that he has raised. He wants first of all the adoption of a system of control credit society under the Co-operative Department. One of such societies is working at Cuddalore. After inspection if they are satisfied that a certain acreage is fit for cultivation they lend some money for sowing purposes and after a few months in respect of the same plot they see that the crops are satisfactory, they lend some more money and when the harvest is over they take stock of the produce and sale is conducted by them and after the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

money that they have advanced is taken the balance is returned to the cultivator. This is one of the methods that he has advocated for the attention of the Government of Madras. Then he wants seed credit societies, co-operative stores, credit societies etc. for the peasant population to advance seeds suited to local conditions, a stud bull, a veterinary dispensary, a well stocked agricultural depot under a demonstrator to supply the ryots with implements and manure etc., a small farm two or three acres in extent for demonstration purposes, a well informed price information bureau,—that is absolutely necessary in our parts also—a dispensary in charge of the public health department, convenience for well boring, an inspector of industries, a school for adults for the spread of knowledge pertaining to agriculture, co-operation, cottage industry and public health with facilities for practical training, model blocks to be ready for demonstration. He speaks of wireless, loud speaker etc. But so far as our State is concerned we are not in urgent need of it. But I think all the other suggestions made in the report of Mr. Sathianathan can be adopted in our State also. I would also say that some attempt may be made at least in the Southern District and the Northern District to institute at least one agricultural school for young children. After they have passed the primary school they may be given admission to these schools and a serious attempt may be made to give them some education in agriculture so that the number of people always looking to get employed in Government service as petty clerks may decrease and people may be taught the lesson that they have a duty towards their villages and that if they look after the interests of their villages they can get on better. That is a matter which also deserves the attention of the Government.

Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar.—Mr. President Sir, I support the resolution and in rising to do so I may be allowed to narrate a short popular story which occurs to me. A poor man belonging to the Nambidi class died and the relations were making preparations to remove the dead body. Immediately comes in the priest saying that before the dead body is removed, there should be a "ൎമ്ലാപ്പ" that is to say, one para of paddy must be placed before the dead body. Immediately comes the reply of the relations that if there was one para of paddy, there would not have been a dead body there; i. e., he died because there was no paddy for him to eat. This appears to me to be exactly the position of our agriculturists. I do admit that the idea to give effective help to the agriculturists by a Land Mortgage Bank is certainly a very happy one. But what is this indebtedness of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the agriculturists due to? I think it is because of the fact that after meeting the expenses of cultivation there was little left for his own expenses, with the result that year after year he had to borrow and gradually his debts accumulated. Now, the idea of the Land Mortgage Bank as was examined by the Expert Member yesterday was that an advance could be made to the average agriculturist which he was to pay in the course of 10 or 20 years out of the balance left after meeting the expenses of cultivation and after meeting his own private expenses. I beg to suggest that if the average agriculturist had anything left after meeting the expenses of cultivation and his own expenses, he would not have contracted such huge debts. Therefore, for the proper functioning of the Land Mortgage Bank, I think all attempts should be made to make the yield of the land more substantial and leave something after meeting the expenses of cultivation and his own private expenses. This, I think, will be the case with regard to 75 per cent of the agriculturists. The details as to how to improve the yield of the land, I leave to the Government. I do think that every attempt should be made by the Government to improve the yield of the land, if the Land Mortgage Bank is to be of any use, say, to at least 50 per cent of the agriculturists in the State. With these words I support the resolution.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Mr. President, Sir, the resolution, if I may be allowed to say so, is of a non-controversial character and I may at once state that it is not the intention of the Government to oppose it at all. But it may not be quite out of place here to very briefly summarise what the Government had been doing in this respect and what the Government can do in future.

Of course, the Hon'ble Members know that the present system of agriculture is not of the Government making. The system of agriculture that is prevalent now has come down to us from the past. But it goes without saying that the system is of a most crude and primitive nature. One great obstacle that the Government has always had to face is a phenomenon which has been found in almost every country, i. e., the conservatism of our agricultural masses and the difficulty of persuading them to take to improved methods of agriculture.

Taking the first part of the resolution that deals with the improvement of the means of production, what the Government can possibly do in this direction is roughly speaking to make effort in three directions, i. e., with respect to the expansion of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the means of production, provision of easy facilities for the farmer and demonstration work so that he may be able to see for himself what the results of improved methods of production as applied to the land in this State can be. In the course of the discussion, it seems to me, that the Hon'ble Mover has put it under five main heads. (1) Possibilities of raising new crops and possibilities for improving the existing crops i. e., if I may say so, persuading the farmers to take to alternative methods of raising crops, (2) Manuring on a profitable scale. (3) Improvement of live stock and free use of improved implements in agriculture. (4) providing facilities for easy credit and (5) ensuring a steady source of water supply.

With respect of the introduction of new methods the experiment is being tried through the agency of the agricultural farm where they have various kinds of paddy and so far as I know this paddy is being utilised by the farmers in this State. There are demonstration works, both indoors and outdoors. For outdoors the department is selecting fields in well known blocks and is carrying on research work and are persuading the farmers to try that in their own fields, so that they may judge for themselves how they stand to gain by means of improved methods of agriculture. That is the only work which the Government can do in that direction. It is certainly too much to expect the Government to supply all the seeds that they require. The Government cannot be expected to do anything more tangible in that direction.

With respect to the improvement of live stock they do maintain many varieties in the farm so that the farmers can judge for themselves what their live stock ought to be and where they can get it.

With respect to improved implements so far as I know they are collected in the farms and a few are for sale and for the rest the information is available in the farms where these implements are available.

Then with respect to facilities for easy credit. It may not be quite correct to say that it is only the Land Mortgage Bank that the Government has achieved in this direction. Agricultural loans are even now given to the extent of 20 thousand rupees every year and small farmers who want money for improving their lands can very well avail themselves of the opportunity offered by Government to the extent of rupees twenty thousand.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Lastly with regard to the ensuring a steady source of water supply I may state that some efforts have been made by the Government in that respect also. The Hon'ble Member knows that the Irrigation Bill has just passed into law. Provision has been made there for persons to apply to Government pointing out the necessity for any major or minor work of irrigation. There are provisions now to make an enquiry and if satisfied the Government would not hesitate to spend money upon it and realise some taxation in the shape of water cess. Thus efforts are being made by the Government and it is now supplemented by the Land Mortgage Bank. The Land Mortgage Bill also provides for the grant of loans to the agriculturists for the purpose of improving their lands. What I would submit is that all that is immediately possible for the Government to do is being done. That does not mean that the Government will not be ready to accept any suggestion of a concrete and acceptable nature if it is brought to the notice of the Government.

With respect to marketing, there also all that is immediately possible to do is being done by the Government. The marketing officers are engaged in conjunction with the marketing officers appointed by the Imperial Government in finding out markets for some of our staple products. It is not quite correct to say that they are now engaged in finding out markets for products which are not produced in this State. When their task is done and when they get themselves more acquainted with the methods they follow in British India they will certainly take to market surveys with respect to arecanuts, cocoanuts and other staple products of our State. My submission is that the House and the Government are at one in the matter of the necessity of improving agriculture. The Government may assure the House that all that can be done will be done, subject of course to our financial conditions. The necessity of having co-operative organisations should not also be denied or overlooked.

Mr. K. S. Manickam.—On a point of information, may I know whether the Government will continue to give agricultural loans even after the establishment of the Land Mortgage Bank?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Yes.

Mr. K. S. Manickam.—Sir, it was not my intention when I tabled this resolution to criticise the Government for not attending to these duties. I am quite aware of the fact that the Government are engaging themselves in suggesting to the agriculturists and in finding out methods for the improvement of agriculture and devising every means to help them. I only

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

wanted to bring to the attention of the Government that their activities in this direction should be increased so that with the institution of the Land Mortgage Bank the objects with which the Bank is going to be established may be achieved. In view of the assurance given to us now by the Hon'ble Diwan Peishkar I do not think that I should press this resolution. I therefore, beg leave of the House to withdraw the resolution.

Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

2. Calling forth applications for appointment in the State Services.

Mr. C. S. Viswanatha Ayyar.— "*This Council recommends to the Government that in future no vacancies of appointments in any Department should be filled up, without advertising such vacancies and calling applications for such vacancies*".

Mr. President, Sir, it will be seen that my resolution is an absolutely harmless one and if accepted both by the House and the Government will lead to a better and healthy principle being introduced in the State services which will go a long way to satisfy the requirements of many parties in the House. It is needless for me to point out that the clamour for the appointment of a Service Commission has not so far received any encouraging attention from the Government. In the absence of a service commission I consider that the only other safe course would be to act up to my resolution. My resolution only wants the Government to call for applications for appointments so that the Government can consider the available talents for filling up of vacancies. Whenever any Hon'ble Member brings to the notice of the Government the injustice done to any particular individual or class of people in the matter of any recent appointment, the Government generally answer that the best available hand has been appointed. We are not able to say whether the claims of available candidates had been considered. Again, Sir, we have often heard complaints from deserving candidates with high qualifications that they were never aware of the existence of the vacancy and the vacancy comes to the knowledge of the country only after it is being filled up behind the back of the subjects of the State. It is therefore necessary that an opportunity should be given to all subjects of the State to bring to the notice of the Government their intention to serve the Government and to place all their claims and qualifications before the Government for due consideration.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly